



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
9 November 2004

Media Contact: **Ryan Van Bibber**
(417) 447 - 2988

Nurse Family Partnership Ready to Serve Springfield Families

Safe Schools Healthy Students, in partnership with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, announces the launch of Building Blocks, A Nurse-Family Partnership program. The program works with first-time parents to help them develop effective parenting skills and build resilient families.

A press conference will be held Wednesday, November 10 at 2:00 p.m. in the Springfield-Greene County Health Department conference room to discuss Building Blocks Health Department representatives and Safe Schools Healthy Students staff will speak briefly about the program and the partnership. Program nurses and clients will be available for one-on-one interviews.

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department is one of several partners in Springfield's Safe Schools Healthy Students Initiative. Building Blocks, A Nurse-Family Partnership is the latest program from the Safe Schools Healthy Students Initiative to get underway; it is also the second largest program of the initiative. The Springfield/Greene County Health Department received final approval from the National Center for Children, Families and Communities in May of this year to initiate the program. Four nurses have already been hired and trained, and an additional nurse is scheduled to be hired.

In 2003 the Springfield Public Schools was awarded a federal Safe Schools Healthy Students grant, in the amount of \$2.8 million per year for three years, to address the causes of youth violence and substance abuse through partnerships with community health, justice and educational organizations.

The programs that are part of Springfield's Safe Schools Healthy Students Initiative all strive to prevent violence and other crises before they start by promoting healthy child and family development and school environments that are safe, disciplined and drug free. These efforts are targeted address the issues among all ages and stages of youth development. As a result, schools and the entire community are more likely to experience success as these efforts remove key barriers to success in school and life.

###

Safe Kids Succeed!